



## Federal Youth Coordination Act of 2008

The Federal Youth Coordination Act builds upon the bipartisan Tom Osborne Federal Youth Coordination Act and establishes the White House Office of National Youth Policy.

### Background

In 2003, President Bush commissioned the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth to assess federal youth policy and develop recommendations to strengthen the federal response to the needs of children and youth, with a focus on coordination and accountability. Its primary finding –federal youth policy, administered across 12 departments, lacks coordination and focus.

Congressman Tom Osborne introduced legislation, the Federal Youth Coordination Act (FYCA; H.R. 856), to implement several of the recommendations included in the White House Task Force's report. FYCA created an interagency coordination council to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal youth programs. The legislation passed the House in November 2005 by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 353 to 62, with 163 Republicans supporting it, and no Democrats opposing. It was later incorporated into the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (PL 109-365) as Title VIII and named for its leading sponsor. The legislation was also supported by hundreds of children's organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, YMCA of the USA, and many others.

First time funding for its implementation was included in the House FY09 Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations bill, and the law is up for reauthorization in FY 09.

### White House Office of National Youth Policy

Modeled after the Office of National Drug Control Policy, this bill establishes the White House Office of National Youth Policy (Office) to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of youth policy through improved coordination of federal youth programs. This legislation:

- Establishes a cabinet-level Director to oversee the Office and maximize coordination among federal agencies serving children and youth.
- Calls for the development of a National Youth Strategy, including quantifiable goals and performance measures, to improve outcomes for children and youth.
- Directs the Office to streamline federal youth policy through such means as ensuring alignment, where appropriate, of federal definitions, reporting and eligibility requirements, etc., to remove federal barriers toward the efficient and effective delivery of services for children and youth.
- Provides funds to support State Youth Service Coordinating Entities to improve coordination of state policies impacting children and youth.
- Establishes the National Youth Development Council, composed of Department Secretaries, to facilitate interagency coordination. It also establishes the National Youth Advisory Board, composed of young people, to improve youth policy by more directly engaging youth.
- Authorizes \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2009 through 2013, the majority of which would support state-level coordination efforts.

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